

mold core having located in the confronting flat surface of each segment, an opening to the concavity of the upper mold segment running through the upper mold segment and exiting through the upper surface of the upper mold segment and injecting liquid moldable material into the upper mold segment via the upper mold segment opening.

Further, the Examiner states that Cole teaches the concept of an opening (133) in the upper mold segment (103) and through this opening material is used for injecting liquid moldable materials into the cavity.

The applicant cannot understand what relevance this statement and discussion has on the novelty of the method of claim 8.

The essence of the instant invention is the use of a gas to inflate the molded article so that it can be taken off of the core of the molding equipment. This essence is important when the object that is molded has a very narrow opening through which the core must pass. Thus, the mold must be such that it accommodates this need in the molding of certain articles.

Fekete does not teach this aspect of the instant invention, and in fact, Fekete teaches a core of several locked segments. When the molding is completed by the Fekete method, the locked segments are unlocked, and each of the segments, in turn, is lifted out of the molded part. Thus, there is no need to look for a reference that would teach the manner in which the mold core is removed from the molded part and in the applicant's opinion, Fekete and Cole are not combinable as the Examiner has done.

Further, even though Cole teaches the use of air to remove the molded part from the mold, the mode of removal is not the same as in the instant invention, and therefore the components of the mold are not the same.

Cole teaches that an air blast can help remove the molded cork from the mold. However, Cole does not teach the inflation of the molded part to remove it from the mold. The instant method does require that the molded part be inflated to be able to remove it from the core. See claim 8, part (VI), lines 3, 4 and 5, wherein it is stated "...allowing the solid molded product to be inflated by the injected gas until the solid molded product is released from the core and thereafter, removing the solid molded product from the mold."

Thus, this inflation step is not found in Cole, and is not found in Fekete, and the Examiner's reliance on the same is without foundation and this rejection should be withdrawn and the claim allowed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert L. McKellar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "McKellar" clearly distinguishable.

Robert L. McKellar

Reg. No. 26,002

(989) 631-4551